

1. This Non-Final office action is to replace the Final office action mailed on 10/6/10. The finality of this application has been withdrawn and the Final office action mailed on 10/6/10 has been vacated. The statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this Non-Final office action.

2. This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on August 6, 2010.

3. Claims 1-9 and 11-21 are presented for examination and claim 10 is canceled.

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. code not included in this office action can be found in a prior office action.

*Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103*

5. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafal et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0002586 (hereinafter Rafal) in view of Nagai, U.S. Patent 6,490,687 (hereinafter Nagai).

6. As per claim 1, Rafal teaches the invention substantially as claimed comprising:  
requesting, by a chairman video game terminal ([0042], host video game terminal), a server to set an area of a database for storing chat messages ([0012], [0029], [00124]-

[0127], [0153])(request server to set an area for chatting by putting the area of a server into a Party Stage state for storing chat messages);  
storing setup information, for accessing the area of the database to be set by the server and before the server sets the area of the database, in a storage of the chairman video game terminal ([0046], [0055], [0085] and [0086])(storing cookie including the URL (invitation code) at the user (host));  
creating, by the chairman video game terminal and while the server is setting the area of the database, an invitation message comprising the setup information stored in the storage ([0046], [0055], [0035] and [0119]);  
giving, by the chairman video game terminal, an instruction for transmission of the invitation message ([0035] and [0119]);  
transmitting the invitation message comprising the setup information from the chairman video game terminal to a guest video game terminal based on the instruction ([0046], [0055], [0035] and [0119])(sending an invitation with URL (invitation code) as setup information from host to server to guest);  
receiving, by the guest video game terminal, the invitation message ([0038], [0046] and [0119]);  
obtaining, by the guest video game terminal, the setup information from the invitation message ([0038] and [0046]) (obtaining the URL (invitation code) to access party);  
creating, by the guest video game terminal, an access request signal based on the setup information ([0046] and [0112]) (user entering the URL (invitation code));

transmitting, from the guest video game terminal to the database, the access request signal created by the guest video game terminal in response to the guest video game terminal receiving a guest instruction ([0046] and [0112])(sending login request using the URL),

wherein the setup information is not visible on the guest video game terminal ([0087]) (URL (invitation code) contain hidden data),

wherein the setup information includes a password without modification and that initiates and authenticates access to the area of the database by the guest video game terminal ([0029] and [0047]) (password for setting up the party).

7. Rafal does not specifically teach that the password is communicated from the chairman video game terminal. Nagai teaches a password that is communicated from the chairman video game terminal (e.g., host) to at least one of the server and the guest video game terminal (col. 1, lines 29-33; col. 3, lines 30-35; col. 4, lines 51-57).

8. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal and Nagai because Nagai's teaching of a password from the chairman video game terminal would improve the security of Rafal's system by providing a login permission method from outside to the host computer.

9. As per claim 2, Rafal teaches the invention as claimed in claim 1 above. Rafal further teaches wherein the setup information comprises at least one of a name of an electronic

conference and a code number for accessing the area of the database ([0119], URL with invitation code).

10. As per claim 5, Rafal teaches the invention substantially as claimed including:
  - a chairman video game terminal ([0042], host video game terminal) comprising an area requestor that requests a server to open a chat, said server opening said chat by setting an area of a database for storing chat messages ([0012], [0029], [00124]-[0127], [0153]) (request server to set an area for chatting by putting the area of a server into a Party Stage state for storing chat messages), a storage that stores, before said server sets said area of said database, setup information for accessing said area of said database ([0046], [0055], [0085] and [0086])(storing cookie including the URL (invitation code) at the user (host)); an invitation message creator that creates, while said server is setting said area, an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said storage ([0046], [0055], [0035] and [0119]); an instructor that issues an instruction for transmission of said invitation message created by said invitation message creator ([0035] and [0119]); and an invitation signal transmitter that transmits said invitation message comprising said setup information to a guest video game terminal in response to said instruction from said instructor ([0046], [0055], [0035] and [0119])(sending an invitation with URL (invitation code) as setup information from host to server to guest); and
  - said guest video game terminal including a setup information retriever that receives said invitation message ([0038], [0046] and [0119]) and obtains said setup information ([0038] and [0046])(obtaining the URL (invitation code) to access party); an access request signal source that creates an access request signal comprising said setup information obtained by said setup

information retriever ([0046] and [0112])(user entering the URL (invitation code)); and a request signal transmitter that transmits, to said database, said access request signal created by said access request signal source in response to said guest video game terminal receiving a guest instruction ([0046] and [0112])(sending login request using the URL),

wherein said setup information is not visible on said guest video game terminal ([0087]) (URL (invitation code) contain hidden data),

wherein said setup information includes a password without modification and that initiates and authenticates access to the area of the database by the guest video game terminal ([0029] and [0047]) (host presents password for setting up the party).

11. Rafal does not specifically teach that the password is communicated from the chairman video game terminal. Nagai teaches a password that is communicated from the chairman video game terminal (e.g., host) to at least one of the server and the guest video game terminal (col. 1, lines 29-33; col. 3, lines 30-35; col. 4, lines 51-57).

12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal and Nagai because Nagai's teaching of a password from the chairman video game terminal would improve the security of Rafal's system by providing a login permission method from outside to the host computer.

13. As per claim 6, Rafal and Nagai teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 5 above. Rafal further teaches wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of an electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database ([0119]).

14. As per claim 9, the claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above.

15. As per claims 18 and 20, Rafal and Nagai teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 1 and 5 above. Rafal further teaches wherein the chairman video game transmits the setup information to the server when requesting the server to set the area of the database for storing chat messages ([0028] and [0031]-[0037]).

16. Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafal and Nagai in view of Slutsman et al, U.S. Patent 7,177,905 (hereinafter Slutsman).

17. As per claims 3 and 7, Rafal and Nagai teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 1 and 5 above. Although Rafal teaches transmitting the invitation message containing the ID number from the chairman video game terminal to the guest video game terminal ([0035] and [0119]), however, Rafal and Nagai do not specifically teach receiving an opening response signal. Slutsman teaches comprising:

receiving at the chairman's terminal, an opening response signal from said server, said opening response signal indicating that said area has been set in said database, said opening response signal comprises an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database (see

Slutsman, col. 2, lines 49-56, 60-62; col. 3, lines 4-10), transmitting from the chairman's terminal said invitation signal containing said ID number (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24), and adding said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 30-33).

18. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai and Slutsman because Slutsman's teaching of receiving an opening response signal would increase the alertness of Rafal's and Nagai's systems by allowing the host to be notified of area of the party has been set.

19. As per claims 4 and 8, Rafal, Nagai and Slutsman teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 3 and 7 above. Rafal further teaches wherein the setup information comprises at least one of a name of the electronic conference and a code number for accessing the area of the database ([0119]).

20. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafal and Nagai in view of Morris et al, U.S. Patent 7,216,144 (hereinafter Morris)

21. As per claim 11, Rafal and Nagai teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Rafal and Nagai do not specifically teach a chat opening message comprising a type of the chat opening message and title. Morris teaches creating by the chairman video game

terminal a chat opening message comprising a type of the chat opening message (1000, fig. 10), a message title (Buddy Chat, fig. 10), and a text box (Invitation message box, fig. 10), which are required to transmit the invitation message to the guest video game terminal (col. 12, lines 19-25); giving an instruction from the chairman video game terminal for transmission of the chat opening message (col. 12, lines 19-25); and transmitting from the chairman video game terminal a chat opening signal based on the instruction (col. 12, lines 19-25).

22. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai and Morris because Morris's teaching of creating an opening message would increase the user's flexibility in Rafal's and Nagai's systems by allowing a host to specify the type and title of the party to be created.

23. As per claim 12, Rafal, Nagai and Morris teach the invention as claimed in claim 11 above. Rafal, Nagai and Morris further teach comprising input columns for an alias name of the chairman (see Morris, buddy chat room box, fig. 10) and the password which are required to request the server to open an electronic conference room (see Rafal, [0029]).

24. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai and Morris for the same reason as claim 11 above.

25. As per claim 13, Rafal, Nagai and Morris teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 11 above. Morris further teach the input columns for the alias name in the chat opening message is displayed as an electronic conference room name in the invitation message (col. 12, lines 28-31).

26. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai and Morris for the same reason as claim 11 above.

27. As per claim 14, Rafal, Nagai and Morris teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 11 above. Although Morris further teach transmitting a command for inviting selected guests from the chairman video game terminal (col. 12, lines 19-25); and editing the invitation message by selecting guests while the chat opening process is in progress (col. 12, lines 21-22), however, Rafal, Nagai and Morris do not teach selecting guests from address book. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include selecting names to invite from address book (e.g., buddy list) because by doing so it would increase the efficiency of their systems by allowing names to be referenced by the address book, hence allowing a user to quickly retrieve contact name (e.g. screen names). Noted that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that “yipster666” selected in fig. 10 of Morris’s reference could be a one of the screen name from the buddy list 210 shown in fig. 2).

28. Claims 17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafal and Nagai in view of Cohen et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2009/0106416 (hereinafter Cohen).

29. As per claims 17, 19, and 21, Rafal and Nagai teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 9 above. Rafal and Nagai do not transmitting to the chairman video game terminal, an invitation answer signal in response to the guest video game terminal receiving the guest instruction. Cohen teaches transmitting, from the guest video game terminal to the chairman video game terminal, an invitation answer signal in response to the guest video game terminal receiving the guest instruction ([0082] and [0083]).

30. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai and Cohen because Cohen teaching of transmitting to the chairman video game terminal, an invitation answer signal in response to the guest video game terminal receiving the guest instruction would increase the alertness in Rafal's and Nagai's systems by allowing the host system to be notified of the invitation answer from a guest.

31. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafal, Nagai and Slutsman in view of Morris.

32. As per claim 15, Rafal, Nagai and Slutsman teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 3 above. Although Rafal and Slutsman teach generating command for inviting selected guests by obtaining the password (see Rafal, [0029]) from the chat opening message and obtaining the chat ID from the opening response signal (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24; col. 5, lines 44-53), however, Rafal, Nagai and Slutsman do not teach obtaining the alias name. Morris teaches generating command for inviting selected guests by obtaining the alias name (fig. 10).

33. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Rafal, Nagai, Slutsman and Morris because Morris's teaching of generating command for inviting selected guests by obtaining the alias name would increase the user flexibility in Rafal's, Nagai's and Slutsman's systems by allowing invitation to be created using the screen name of the recipient.

34. As per claim 16, Rafal, Nagai, Slutsman and Morris teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 15 above. Rafal and Slutsman further teach wherein the password and the chat ID are recognized by the guest video game terminal during the exchange of the signals (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24) but are not communicated to the guest through the screen (see Rafal, [0087]).

35. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 and 11-21, filed August 6, 2010, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

36. In the remarks, applicant argued that:

- (1) Rafal fails to teach storing setup information in the chairman video game terminal before the server sets the area of the database.
- (2) Rafal fails to teach creating and transmitting, by the chairman video game terminal, while the server is setting the area of the database, an invitation message including the setup information stored in the chairman video game terminal.
- (3) Rafal fails to teach the setup information includes a password that is communicated from the chairman video game terminal to the server or the guest video game terminal that initiates and authenticates access to the area of the database by the guest video game terminal.

37. In response to points (1) and (2), Rafal teaches entry point URL is stored on the host in order to included in an email invitation sent to the guest ([0085], [0086] and [0037])(i.e., storing setup information, for setting the area of the database, in a storage section of the chairman video game terminal). Rafal further teaches a host creates an email invitation that includes the entry point URL and sends the email to the invited guest ([0119] and [0037]; fig. 1, 106, host email invitation 117 to guest) (i.e., creating, by the chairman video game terminal, an invitation message comprising the setup information stored in the storage section of the chairman video game terminal; and transmitting the invitation message comprising the setup message from the chairman video game terminal to a guest video game terminal). Rafal teaches at the Pre-Party state ([0044]), the guest joins the party by coming to the website at a URL specified in the

invitation (i.e., by the entry point URL) ([0046]). As shown in figure 1, elements 108a and 108b, and in paragraph 55, the party stage is the culminating event of the Party Creation and Pre-Party stages. This means the storing of setup information in the chairman video game terminal (i.e., storing of entry point URL in host), creating and transmitting, by the chairman video game terminal, an invitation message comprising the setup information stored in the chairman video game terminal (i.e., creating and transmitting invitation email with entry point URL to guest) are before and while the server is setting an area of the database (i.e., while in the Party Creation and Pre-Party stages and before the Party stage state). It is noted that the term “setting” is interpreted as putting into a specified state. Thus, “setting an area in the database” is interpreted as putting an area in the database in the Party stage state as described above.

38. In response to point (3), applicant’s argument is moot in view of new ground of rejection.

39. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Krista Zele can be reached on (571) 272-7288. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip C Lee/

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